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New Rule on Top-Security U.S. Work

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (UPI) — The Reagan Administration put into effect today a directive requiring Federal employees with top-secret security clearances to submit articles and speeches for approval before publication.

The Justice Department issued a sample of a secrecy pledge that executive branch employees must sign before getting access to highly secret material.

It includes a promise to submit all writing about both secret and not secret intelligence matters if the information was obtained in Government employment.

The new pledge replaces a narrower version issued in 1981 that covered Cabinet officers and other senior officials who had access to very sensitive material. Before Mr. Reagan took of-

fice only Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency employees had to submit their written material for review during and after Government employment.

In March, President Reagan issued an order tightening procedures for the handling of sensitive information. It required Federal employees to take lie detector tests in investigations of unauthorized disclosures and to pledge not to disclose secret material.

The move today stems from that order, which has been attacked by civil liberties groups and members of Congress as a new form of censorship.

A Justice Department official, who spoke on the condition of remaining anonymous, said the new pledge affected executive branch employees who wrote books, editorials or maga-

zine articles containing information about secret matters.

It also applies to fiction and to speeches where a written text is used.

The official said the President, Vice President and members of Congress would not have to sign the pledge since they were elected officials who gained access to secret material because of their offices.

Allan Adler, a lawyer for the National Center for Security Studies, said the directive required employees to submit material even if it involved data that were not secret.

He said it put officials with high-level security clearances under "perpetual obligation" to submit anything they wrote even if it was not sensitive.

The Justice Department official said it was not clear how many employees would be asked to sign the pledge.